

LETTERS

Area highway construction is right on track

Editor:
Your editorial of November 15, 1995, chastising the Department of Transportation for not addressing signalization along the Route 309 corridor is unwarranted. As you were made aware in telephone conversations with my staff, the signalization of one intersection (415 and 118) is very close to being completed, and five additional intersections advanced to a bid letting in early October of this year. In fact, these five intersections are presently under contract, and construction will take place over the next several months concluding in the summer of 1996. This work includes improvements to the existing signals at the Harris Hill Road intersection, as well as the Center Street intersection in

Kingston Township. New signals will be added at the Franklin Street intersection in Kingston Township, at the Main Street intersection near Offset Paper in Dallas Township and at the intersection of TR 415 and Center Hill Road in Dallas Borough/Township. All of this work costs approximately \$950,000.

It should also be pointed out that the widening of TR 309 which took place two years ago from the Harris Hill intersection to Center Street in Kingston Township cost approximately \$1.4 million. Previous to that work, there was a project that cost approximately \$4 million for the improvements between Center Street in Kingston Township to the intersection at TR 415 in Dallas Borough.

Most of this work has been accomplished with the cooperation of a Transportation Management Association which is a volunteer group consisting of members of the Department of Transportation, officials of Kingston Township, Dallas Borough and Dallas Township, as well as members of the Back Mountain Citizen's Council.

As can be seen by addressing the facts in this matter, the Department of Transportation is committed to the improvements along this corridor and is fulfilling that commitment.

Charles M. Mattei, PE
District Engineer
Engineering District 4-0
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Little League appreciates outstanding support

Editor:
On behalf of the Administrative Staff of Little League District 16 and for myself personally, I want to publicly thank the hundreds of volunteers, league presidents and other league officials, parents and most especially the youngsters who participated in organized Little League competition during the 1995 season.

I also want to sincerely thank the sports staff of *The Dallas Post* for the tremendous coverage accorded all the teams in the district and the district itself throughout

the regular season and during post-season tournament play as well.

All in all, 1995 was a successful year for District 16 and for those of us who are involved with it and we look forward to building on that success in 1996.

As District Administrator of District 16 - a post I was appointed to last February - it is my responsibility and the responsibility of my staff as well to oversee the largest Little League district in the nation with 33 leagues and more than 5,000 young players

on the rosters.

I welcome that responsibility fully and I pledge myself and my staff to work for the betterment of District 16 in the years ahead.

As in the past, the help of your newspaper will certainly be appreciated again next year and beyond.

Once again, I want to thank you for your most valued coverage.

Fred J. DeSanto
Administrator
Little League District 16

Washington student seeks information about area

Editor:
Each member in our class is working on a project called "Parade of States". We are responsible for gathering as much information about the state as we can

to help "sell" the state. I have chosen your state, Pennsylvania, for my presentation. If any of your readers would help me out by sending pictures, postcards, a used license plate, facts,

products etc., from your state, it would be greatly appreciated.

Derrek Vipond
10402 150th St. East
Puyallup, Wash. 98374

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Shavertown firefighters sell sand candles

The Shavertown Volunteer Fire Dept. will hold its annual sand candle sale weekends at Insalaco's, Shavertown starting Dec. 3 and at the Shavertown Fire Station Mondays after 6:30 p.m. Orders may also be placed by calling 675-1302 mailbox #8. Sand candles are \$3 a dozen.

Raiders equipment collection Dec. 11

The Kingston Township Raiders will hold equipment collection from 7-8 p.m. December 11, at the Back Mountain Harvest Free Assembly Church. The monthly board meeting will follow at 8 p.m. Anyone interested in serving on the board is encouraged to attend this meeting and call 696-3944 to have their name placed on the ballot. Voting for board members will be done at this meeting.

A Case for Conservation



Alene N. Case

Note from A. Case: There is much more to conservation than science. Science can certainly be helpful, but so can theology, art, cultural awareness, and horticulture. My friend, Sister Constance, has graciously agreed to share with you her experiences in some of these other fields as she is a part of Genesis Farm, N.J. This will be a two-part guest column.

This week she will emphasize the gardening aspect of the farm and two weeks from now she will discuss the environmental education that takes place at the farm. Constance Koziel has roots here in the Back Mountain: she belongs to the Dallas Regional Community of the Sisters of Mercy, and she has taught at College Misericordia. She now resides in Wilkes-Barre.

It's about 12:30 P.M. at Genesis Farm. Staff, guests and volunteers are gathered in a circle around the kitchen "island" where the food is ready for the main meal of the day. As we hold hands, each offers a word of thanks: "I'm grateful for this bright autumn day." "I give thanks for the opportunity to visit Genesis Farm." "...until..." and for this wonderful, nutritious food, gifts from the earth and for all who helped to grow, harvest and prepare it. Heads are raised: "Amen! Amen!" Then the lid of each steaming pot is lifted and the day's cook introduces each dish - savory pumpkin bisque; basmati rice and black bean casserole; fresh garden salad with a variety of greens, peppers, tomatoes, radishes and onions topped with homemade lemon garlic dressing; oatmeal bread. This is the weekday celebration of earth's abundance at Genesis Farm in Blairstown, New Jersey, a Center dedicated to

Visit to a very special farm

reconnecting humans to earth through educational programs and a community supported garden.

Founded 15 years ago (1980) chiefly through the vision and determined dedication of Sister Miriam Theresa MacGillis, a Dominican Sister, artist, gardener and educator, the farm has developed from a run-down dairy farm to an impressive ecological learning center and biodynamic vegetable farm and orchard. It is located on 140 acres in the Delaware River Watershed of northwestern New Jersey. I have been spending time there since 1983 - first as a student and most recently as a volunteer and part-time staff member.

According to the farm's mission statement, it "welcomes all people of good will to search for alternative ways to achieve true human and earth security. As a center for bio-regional and world order education, it holds in trust a diverse community of plant and animal life within its wetlands, woodlands, open fields and cultivated gardens."

In the early days, food was grown for sale at a roadside stand, but it soon became evident that the concept of a community supported garden (CSG) better fit the philosophy and goals of the farm. Hence, a CSG was established in 1988 in response to the growing crisis in agriculture in the U.S. and around the world. Agribusiness, with its chemical-intensive industrialized methods of crop production, is replacing the human-scale farm with its diversified character and commitment to place and community. A community supported garden offers people an opportunity to join with others to take greater responsibility for a sizable portion of their own food as well as for the land. "It's about more than vegetables" is a caption on the CSG informational flyer. "The garden offers a way to experience the mystery of seeds and soil and to reconnect in an endless variety of possibilities for creating friendship, community and the strong connections that historically tied farmers and communities into a harmonious

relationship with the earth and each other."

Currently, the CSG uses about 25 acres of land. More than six acres are planted in a wide variety of vegetables (I counted over 70!), herbs (about 16), and pick-your-own raspberry bushes, the quality of which is not available in supermarkets. In 1991, 265 fruit and nut trees were planted. There is also an orchard of hardy kiwi. I plucked some after a frost - they were cold, succulent and sweet. In 1993, 108 grape vines and a few paw-paws were planted. There are three greenhouses on the land, which help lengthen the growing season and provide salad greens all winter long. The shareholders financed and built (barn-raising style) a garden house which contains a distribution center and root cellar. Winter shareholders can get potatoes, cabbages, homemade sauerkraut, turnips and other root vegetables as well as greens throughout the season. Freshly ground cornmeal is also available.

The gardeners - one main gardener and 4 assistants plus numerous volunteers - use biodynamic principles based on the insights of Austrian scientist/philosopher Rudolf Steiner. Biodynamic gardeners treat soils as a living organism and constantly nourish and build the soil through crop cover, rotation, and careful tillage. At the same time, they pay attention to cosmic forces coming from outside the earth. No chemical pesticides or fertilizers are used. Compost is made from horse manure and field grasses.

The love and attention which the gardeners bring to their work stimulates the health and energy of the community's food. Shareholders are encouraged, but not required, to help in the planting, weeding and harvesting on special participation days, and volunteers are always welcome. The results are phenomenal: "The miracle of farming," says Heinz Thomet, the main gardener, "is taking 3 ounces of radish seeds and getting 3000 pounds back - isn't that amazing?"

(Stay tuned for part II.)

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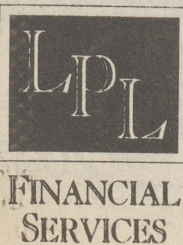
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